

Minimum Average Distance Triangulations

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Introduction

Weighted, undirected graph $G = (V, E, w)$.

$d_G(u, v)$: length of the shortest $u - v$ path.

Average distance:

$$\mathcal{A}(G) = \frac{1}{\binom{|V|}{2}} \sum_{\{x,y\} \subseteq V} d_G(u, v).$$

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Total distance (H. Wiener, 1947):

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Network design (D.S. Johnson et al., 1978):

- Given $G = (V, E, w)$, find a **spanning subgraph** T ,

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- **NP-hard**, even with $w = 1$, and $B = |V| - 1$ (spanning tree).

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- No budget on total weight $\implies T$ is maximal non-crossing.

Minimum Average Distance Triangulation

Two variants:

Minimum Average Distance Triangulation

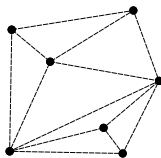
Two variants:

- 1 $S = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$ points in \mathbb{R}^2 ,
 G is complete graph on S ,
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 $\implies T$ is a **triangulation** of S .

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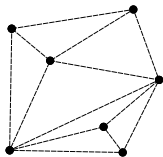
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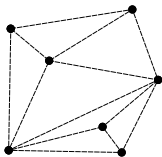


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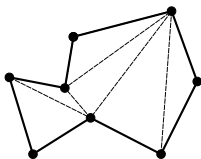
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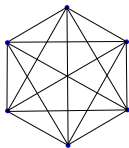
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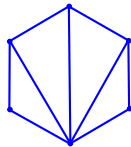
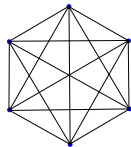
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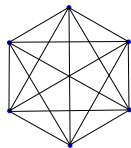
Example:
Regular hexagon, Euclidean weights.



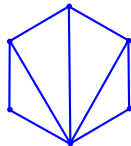
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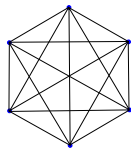


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 $\mathcal{W} \approx 24.93$, $\sum w(e) \approx 11.46$



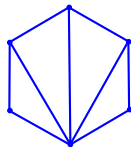
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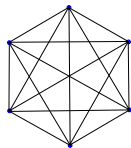
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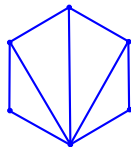
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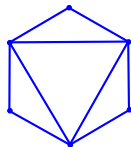
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Summary of results

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{point sets} \\ \text{polygons} \end{array} \right\} \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{unit weights} \\ \text{Euclidean weights} \\ \text{arbitrary weights} \end{array} \right\} \min_T \sum_{x,y} d_T(x,y).$$

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Metric (e.g. Euclidean) weights: **Open**

1. Hardness result

MADT: point set $S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^2$, weights $w : S^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

$$w \text{ semimetric} : \forall x, y \in S : \begin{cases} w(x, y) \geq 0 \\ w(x, y) = 0 \text{ iff } x = y \\ w(x, y) = w(y, x) \end{cases}$$

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Decision problem: given a threshold $\mathcal{W}^* \in \mathbb{R}$, is there a triangulation T of S , such that:

$$\mathcal{W}(T) = \sum_{x, y \in S} d_T(x, y) \leq \mathcal{W}^*$$

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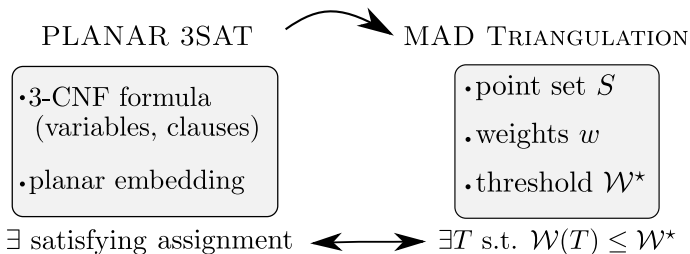
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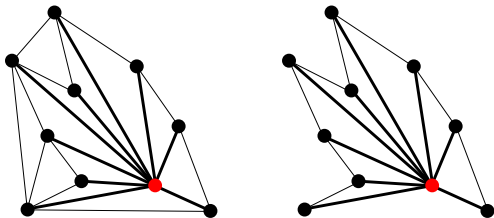
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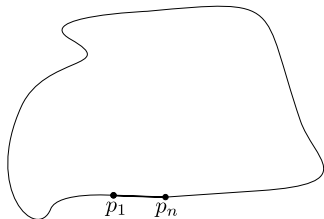
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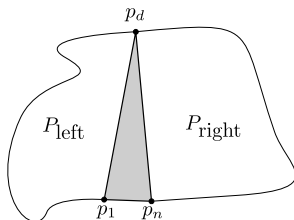
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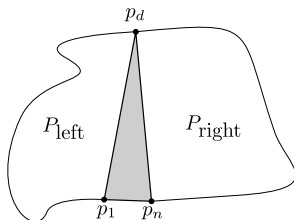
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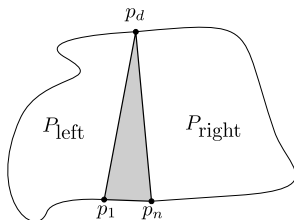
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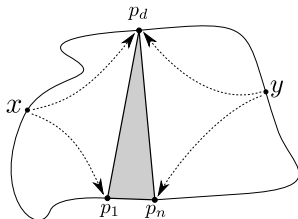
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Problem: cost is not easy to decompose. How to deal with cross-distances?

Question: How to deal with cross-distances?

Let $x \in P_{left}$ and $y \in P_{right}$.

How does the path $x \leftrightarrow y$ cross the triangle $(p_1 p_d p_n)$?

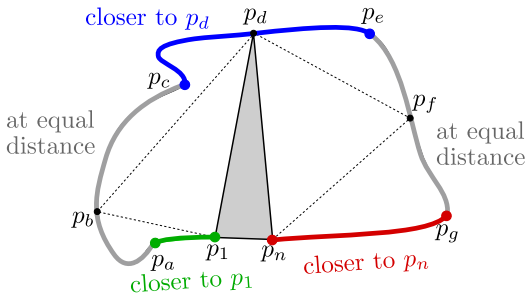


It depends on where x and y are.

Question: How to deal with cross-distances?

We assume the polygon is triangulated.

Observation: Vertices can be grouped into contiguous blocks.

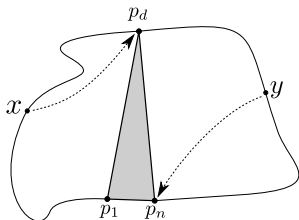
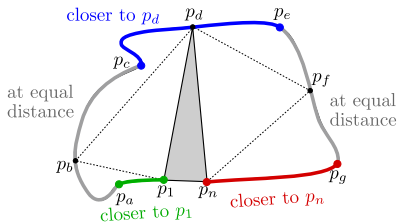


$x \in P_L$ (left part), $y \in P_R$ (right part)

Depending on where x and y fall, we can tell how $x \leftrightarrow y$ crosses the triangle, so we can decompose $d_T(x, y)$:

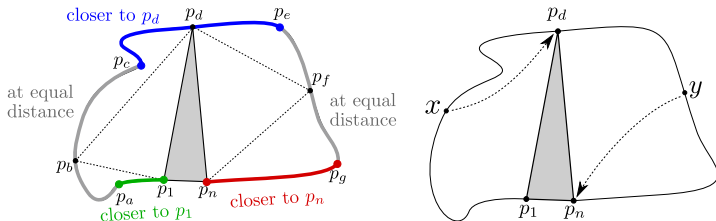
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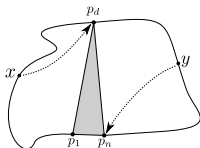
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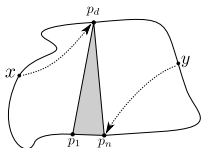


Let $\phi = d_T(x, p_d) + d_T(y, p_n)$. Then:

$$d_T(x, y) = \begin{cases} \phi - 1 & \text{if } y \in [p_d, p_e] \\ \phi + 1 & \text{if } y \in [p_g, p_n] \text{ and } x \in (p_a, p_d] \\ \phi & \text{otherwise .} \end{cases}$$

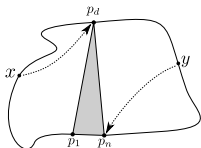


We need an extra term to accumulate distances from endpoints.
Solve a more general problem:



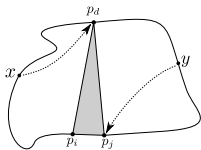
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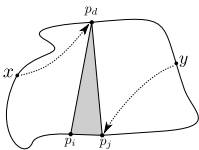


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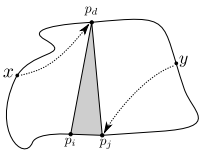


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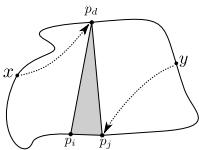
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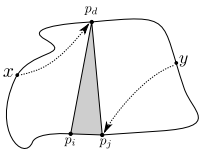
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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W}_{\text{EXT}}(T, \alpha) \Big|_i^j &= \mathcal{W}_{\text{EXT}}(T, \dots) \Big|_i^d + \mathcal{W}_{\text{EXT}}(T, \dots) \Big|_d^j \\ &+ \dots \end{aligned}$$



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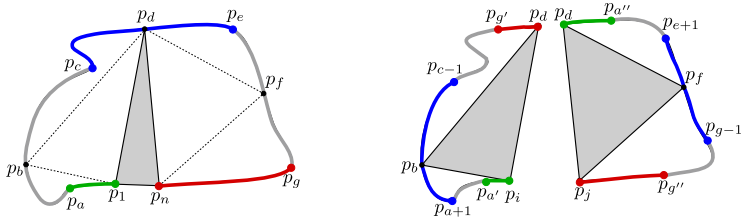
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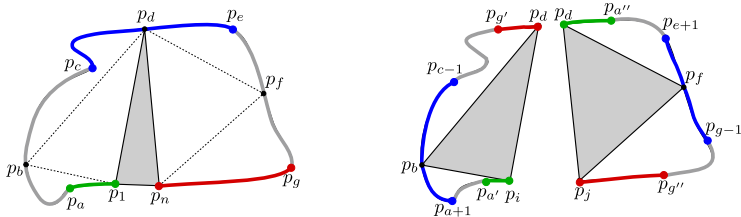
We need to ensure that the constraints on the indices are respected:



Observation: Assume T contains the triangles $p_i p_d p_j$ and $p_i p_b p_d$.

- (a) a is the largest index s.t. $d_T(p_a, p_i) < d_T(p_a, p_d)$ iff $a + 1$ is the smallest index s.t. $d_T(p_{a+1}, p_b) < d_T(p_{a+1}, p_i)$.

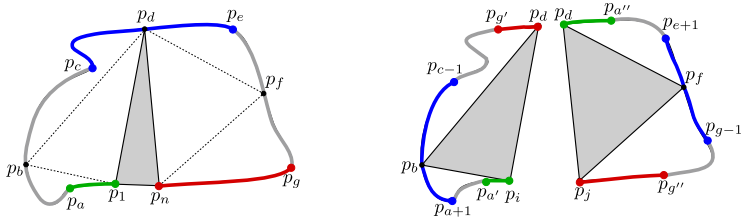
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- (c) analogous relations on the right side

Putting it all together:

```
procedure EXT (( $p_i, \dots, p_j$ ),  $p_a, p_c, p_e, p_g, \alpha$ ):  
  if ( $a = i$ ) and ( $c = e = i + 1$ ) and ( $g = j = i + 2$ ):  
    return ( $3 + 2\alpha$ );    /* the polygon has only three vertices */  
  else:  
    return  $\min_{\substack{p_d, p'_a, p'_g, p''_a, p''_g: \\ i \leq a' \leq a+1 \leq c-1 \leq g' \leq d \\ d \leq a'' \leq e+1 \leq g-1 \leq g'' \leq j \\ p_i \leftrightarrow p_d \leftrightarrow p_j}} \left\{ \begin{aligned} &EXT((p_i, \dots, p_d), p'_a, p_{a+1}, p_{c-1}, p'_g, \alpha + j - d) \\ &+ EXT((p_d, \dots, p_j), p''_a, p_{e+1}, p_{g-1}, p''_g, \alpha + d - i) \\ &+ (\alpha + j - g + 1)(d - a - 1) + (e - d + 1)(i - d) \end{aligned} \right\};$ 
```

Summary of results

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{point sets} \\ \text{polygons} \end{array} \right\} \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{unit weights} \\ \text{Euclidean weights} \\ \text{arbitrary weights} \end{array} \right\} \min_T \sum_{x,y} d_T(x,y).$$

- 1 Point sets, arbitrary (semimetric) weights: **NP-complete**
- 2 Point sets, convex polygons, unit weights: **trivial**
- 3 Arbitrary simple polygons, unit weights: $\mathcal{O}(n^{11})$

Metric (e.g. Euclidean) weights: **Open**

Thank you for your attention.

